



# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **House National Security Committee**

### **Floyd D. Spence, Chairman**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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CONTACT: Maureen Cragin  
Ryan Vaart  
(202) 225-2539

### **SPENCE CALLS ADMINISTRATION'S IRAQ POLICY A FAILURE**

Washington, D.C.— Floyd Spence (R-SC), Chairman of the House National Security Committee, agreed today in a public hearing with the Director of Central Intelligence John Deutch's recent assessment that Saddam Hussein 'has gotten politically stronger in the region' and strongly criticized the Clinton Administration's Iraq policy saying "[Director John Deutch's statement] seems to reflect an Administration in disarray and, is a stark admission that the Administration's policy toward Iraq is failing."

"Our pinprick response to Saddam's aggression in the north has strained our own coalition without hurting Saddam, either militarily or diplomatically. Iraq only has to repair some air defense sites while the U.S. must try to repair a five-year coalition policy of containment," Spence said.

Referring to Saddam Hussein's three "victories" in the last month — his strengthened position within Iraq, his ability to fracture the Desert Storm coalition of nations, and his ability to call into question American credibility and leadership — Spence added, "If the President perceives this [policy toward Iraq] as 'success' and believes that Saddam Hussein is strategically worse off, I would hate to know what his definition of 'failure' is. Indeed, it is not Saddam who is worse off, it is the United States. It is the United States that now finds itself with more military challenges. It is the United States that now has fewer strategic options. It is the United States that is now confronting the very real prospect of a strategic policy failure of some magnitude."

The hearing was called to examine recent military developments in Iraq and the Persian Gulf region and their impact on U.S. operations and security goals, including the continued viability of the Gulf War coalition to contain Iraq. Appearing before the committee were: Richard Haass, The Brookings Institute; Richard Perle, The American Enterprise Institute; Michael Eisenstadt, Washington Institute for Near East Policy; Bruce Reidel, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Near East and South Asian Affairs; Major General J.A. Van Alstyne, Vice Director for Operations for The Joint Staff at the Department of Defense.

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